

REMARKS

In the Office Action dated July 25, 2005, claims 1-2 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101 because the claimed invention is allegedly directed to non-statutory subject matter. Furthermore, claims 1-6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application No. 2003/0229856 A1 ("Lynn et al."). In response, Applicant has amended claims 1 and 5 to more clearly distinguish the claimed invention from the cited references. Moreover, claim 1 was amended to overcome the §101 rejection. In addition, Applicant has canceled claims 2-4 and 6, and has added new claims 7-22.

Applicant respectfully asserts that the amended independent claims 1 and 5 are not anticipated by Lynn et al., as explained below. Furthermore, Applicant respectfully asserts that the new dependent claims 9 and 17 are also not anticipated by Lynn et al., as explained below. In view of the amendments to the claims and the following remarks, Applicant respectfully requests the allowance of the pending claims 1, 5 and 7-22.

In responding to the Office Action, Applicant has amended the specification to insert the serial number for a referenced U.S. patent application. Specifically, the paragraphs [0046], [0047] and [00126] have been amended to insert the serial number of 10/671,953 for U.S. patent application entitled "Intuitive Graphic User Interface with Universal Tools," which was filed September 26, 2003. Furthermore, the paragraph [0004] has been amended to correct a minor error.

A. Patentability of Amended Independent Claims 1 and 5

The Office Action has rejected the original independent claims 1 and 5 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by Lynn et al. In response, Applicant has amended claims 1 and 5 to more clearly distinguish the claimed invention from the cited reference. As amended, the independent claim 1 recites:

"activating a grid feature of said computer operating environment to create first and second grids;

displaying said first and second grids on said computer operating environment as graphic objects in response to user input, each of said first and second grids including a plurality of parallel lines along a first direction and at least one line along a second direction to intersect at least one of said parallel lines, each of said first and second grids being configured to be modifiable with respect to size, each of said first and second grids further being configured to be movable on said computer operating environment;

moving said first grid over a portion of said second grid in response to additional user input of dragging said first grid; and

automatically snapping said first grid to said second grid when said first grid is released to create a customized composite grid on said computer operating environment."

The amended independent claim 5 recites similar elements. The cited reference of Lynn et al. does not disclose each element of the amended claims 1 and 5. As such, Applicant respectfully asserts that the amended independent claims 1 and 5 are not anticipated by Lynn et al.

A claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference. *Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California*, 2 USPQ2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987); MPEP §2131. The cited reference of Lynn et al. does not disclose each element of the amended claims 1 and 5. In particular, Lynn et al. does not disclose the recited "moving" and "automatically snapping" elements of the amended claims 1 and 5 wherein "each of said first and second grids being configured to be modifiable with respect to size" and "each of said first and second grids further being configured to be movable on said computer operating environment." Therefore, the amended independent claims 1 and 5 are not anticipated by Lynn et al. As such, Applicant respectfully requests that the amended independent claims 1 and 5 be allowed.

B. Patentability of New Dependent Claims 9 and 17

The new dependent claims 9 and 17 both recite:

*“providing a graphic object on said computer operating environment, said graphic object including a plurality of align points and a plurality of hot spots;
moving said graphic object over said customized composite grid in response to user input of dragging said graphic object using a particular hot spot of said graphic object; and
automatically snapping said graphic object to said customized composite grid using a particular align point of said graphic object, said particular align point being determined by said particular hot spot used to move said graphic object.”*

The cited reference of Lynn et al. does not disclose a “graphic object” that includes “align points” and “hot spots”. Consequently, Lynn et al. does not disclose the “providing”, “moving” and “automatically snapping said graphic object” elements of claims 9 and 17. Therefore, the new dependent claim 9 and 17 are neither anticipated by nor obvious over Lynn et al. As such, Applicant respectfully requests that the new dependent claims 9 and 17 be allowed.

C. Patentability of Dependent Claims 7, 8, 10-16 and 18-22

Each of the dependent claims 7, 8, 10-16 and 18-22 depends on one of the amended independent claims 1 and 5. As such, these dependent claims include all the limitations of their respective base claims. Therefore, Applicant submits that these dependent claims are allowable for at least the same reasons as their respective base claims.

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the claims in view of the claim amendments and the remarks made herein. A notice of allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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